

BUCKFASTLEIGH TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Environment and Transport Committee Meeting held on 4th April 2018.

Present: Councillors Janet Jones (Chair), Pam Barrett, Huw Cox, Ron Fox, Mark Maish, Linus McCloskey, Andy Stokes and Judith Hart (Town Clerk).

2 members of the public in attendance

Part I (Open to the Public)

18/01. Questions raised by the public:

A member of the public expressed concern at the speed of vehicles along Market Street and thanked the Clerk for her detailed response to this matter. The Clerk reported that Cllr Stuart Barker has arranged for the use of speed monitoring equipment in this area, but there is a waiting list. Devon County Council (DCC) has had notification that government will be reviewing the rules and the need for blanket 20mph speed limits for smaller towns and villages which DCC hope to implement later in the year. Residents are however, encouraged to note the details of vehicles which they witness speeding through the town and report to the police.

It was noted that the Town Council has no power to request a 20mph limit or to enforce it, but representations have been made to DCC. Currently there is no police presence in the town. Residents can however, join the Devon and Cornwall Community Speedwatch scheme and are encouraged to lobby DCC, Cllr Barker and their MP for the speed limit to be lowered. The procedure for reporting speeding vehicles and the need for evidence was explained and it was emphasised that Buckfastleigh is unlikely to be at the top of the list for the new speed limit compared to other larger communities.

Member of the public: *Would a petition help?*

It was suggested that residents could involve the media, start a letter writing campaign, create posters and encourage volunteers to stand in the street wearing hi-vis jackets which can act as a deterrent to drivers. Buckfastleigh Primary School has also reported the same issues.

Cllr Mark Maish arrived at 7.13 pm.

Action: Cllrs Huw Cox and Janet Jones to research further and lead an awareness campaign about speeding. To liaise with the local PCSO and encourage residents to join the Community Speedwatch initiative.

18/02. Apologies for absence: Cllr Pamela Forbes

18/03. Declaration of Interests: None

18/04. To approve & sign as correct the Minutes of the Planning, Environment and Transport Committee meeting on Wednesday 7th March 2018.

Signed and approved by Cllr Janet Jones

18/05. Review of actions from previous meeting:

Scoriton and Buckfastleigh Twinning Association – a letter of support from the Town Council for the addition of the twinning reference to the entrance signs was acknowledged.

Dart Mills HGV – following complaints from residents about alleged HGV activity and the use of floodlights during the night, the Clerk is still awaiting a reply from the Teignbridge District Council Enforcement Officer although a verbal response has been received from Cllr Stuart Barker. It is understood that the transport management company who are on the site are operating within the original planning permission, but this may not reflect the importance of the river Dart as a major foraging route for the protected Greater Horseshoe Bat. The use of floodlights will have a significant impact on the bats and this matter needs to be addressed quickly.

Action: Clerk to request a written response from Enforcement Officer.

A38 safety concerns – No response has been received to date from Highways England.

Action: Clerk to pursue.

Burrington Estates – following an invitation from the Clerk, the developer has refused to undertake a more comprehensive public meeting now that the design brief is available for the proposed Holne Road development

Action: Correspondence relating to this matter has now been published on the Town Council's social media channels.

Parking review – a second meeting is scheduled for Monday 23rd April in the Town Hall.

18/06. Comments on planning applications received prior to this meeting and after Agenda set:

No applications of significant interest to the community were brought to this meeting.

18/07. Green spaces and community assets meeting update – deferred from 7th March 2018:

The first meeting held in February was well attended and a second meeting is being planned by Cllr Mark Maish who reported that there has been positive feedback and enthusiasm to create a business plan for a community gardens and wildlife areas initiative.

18/08. Use of organic pesticides and herbicides – policy discussion – deferred from 7th March 2018:

Community gardens would promote an environmentally friendly and organic policy. Further discussion with Teignbridge District Council is needed regarding the control of weeds around the parish using environmentally friendly products. Cost and resources however, need to be considered, together with a written proposal. It was agreed to trial white vinegar as an alternative solution to using chemicals.

Action: Clerk to order as per Cllr Mark Maish's recommendation

Concern was expressed that these alternatives are labour intensive, and the Town Council does not have the resources to do this. A model is needed for a workable alternative which identifies areas, frequency of use and who will carry out the work.

18/09. Whitecleave Quarry update:

There is an assumption that the operator will leave the site before 31st July 2018.

18/10. To discuss the planning, management and communications issues for projects which are within the remit of this committee:

Solar panels – Cllr Andy Stokes has sought pre-planning advice. Planning permission is now required for installation of the solar panels to the pool but the installation to the Town Hall can proceed.

Action: Cllr Andy Stokes to submit a planning application on behalf of the swimming pool.

18/11. Correspondence: None

18/12. Items requiring urgent attention: None

Meeting closed at 8.00 pm